ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# MINUTES

—OF THE—

## Seventy-Seventh Annual Session

—OF THE—

# ALABAMA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

—HELD WITH—

## HICKORY GROVE CHURCH,

**Montgomery County, Alabama, October 9, 10 and 11, 1896.**

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OFFICERS:

J. C. FONVILLE, MODERATOR ..... Mt. Carmel, Ala.
ELD. C. C. LLOYD, CLERK ..... Greenville, Ala.
WM. P. McQUEEN, TREASURER ..... Sandy Ridge, Ala.

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The next session will be held with Bradleyton Church, Crenshaw County, Ala., beginning Friday before the Second Sunday in October, 1897. Introductory Sermon by Elder T. T. Dobbs; alternate, W. H. Cheatham. Missionary Sermon by Elder W. C. Avant; alternate, Elder J. F. Sims.

Montgomery, Ala.:
ALABAMA BAPTIST PRINT,
1896.

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# MINUTES.

HICKORY GROVE CHURCH, MONTGOMERY COUNTY,
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1896.

The delegates from the churches composing the Alabama Baptist Association met with Hickory Grove church, Montgomery county, Alabama.

The Association was called to order by the clerk, Eld. C. C. Lloyd. The Introductory Sermon was preached by Dr. H. W. Beville. Prayer by Eld. T. T. Dobbs.

Adjourned for dinner.

## AFTERNOON SESSION.

2 p. m. The letters from the churches were read and names of delegates enrolled, as follows:

### FIRST DISTRICT.

Rutledge—*J. T. Helms, *Walter Rushton, W. C. Avant, J. F. Sims, *Fred Rushton.
Siloam—John Lee, *J. C. Killough.
Damascus—Joseph Kierce, J. S. Brunson, W. J. Andress, *S. W. Andress.
Chapel Hill—S. C. Kelly, Oscar Searcy, *W. H. Rodgers.
Pigeon Creek—*J. C. Helms, J. C. Routen, C. H. Morgan.

### SECOND DISTRICT.

Union—J. W. Holloway, W. E. Wells, R. S. Peterson.
Spring Creek—J. A. Thornton, T. L. L. Bowden, S. S. Loe.
Panola—J. H. Sexton, J. T. Roberts.
Ebenezer—Jeff Cook, Richard Davidson, Thomas Duffell.

### THIRD DISTRICT.

Bradleyton—J. M. Carter, *Wm. Warrick, *S. S. Thrower.
Mountain Hill—*L. D. Barfield, L. F. Gregory, J. N. Schofield, Hickory Grove—J. C. Fonville Henry Barclay, W. P. McQueen.
Ellis—Not represented.

### FOURTH DISTRICT.

Steep Creek—M. A. Powell, T. L. S. Grace, C. A. Varner, *H. S. Powell, Geo. Williams.
Good Hope—Not represented.
Indian Creek—*John Bush, *Oscar Bedgood, J. W. Rodgers.
Antoch—S. S. Bishop, G. P. Hawkins, J. H. Harrison, C. C. Lloyd.
Gravel Hill—J. B. Smith, Jno. A. Rhodes, *J. M. Sweatt.

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Absentees marked thus. *

ORGANIZATION.

J. C. Fonville, Moderator; Eld. C. C. Lloyd, Clerk; Wm. P. McQueen, Treasurer.

The Constitution and Rules of Decorum were read by the clerk.

RECEIVED CORRESPONDENCE.

Bro. H. W. Beville of Long Run Association, Kentucky, and Bro. R. M. Sims of Yazoo Association, Mississippi, were cordially received and invited to seats with us.

Report of Committee on Hospitality was read and adopted. Heard and adopted report on Religious Exercises.

COMMITTEES TO REPORT AT PRESENT SESSION.

On Nominations—Jno. C. Routen, chairman.
On Documents and State of Religion—W. C. Avant, J. F. Helms, James Brunson.
On Finance—T. L. S. Grace, Joe Kierce, R. S. Peterson.
On Auditing—Mark Powell, John Sexton.
On Time and Place—J. C. Routen, S. J. Kelley, E. L. Bowden.
On Home and State Missions—T. T. Dobbs, W. H. Cheatham.
On Foreign Missions—T. E. Morgan, W. A. Shanks, R. T. Poole.
On Bible Cause—J. C. Routen, I. F. Helms, J. T. Helms.
On Schools and Colleges—W. C. Avant, J. T. Davidson, G. R. Vickery.
On Temperance—Jno. A. Rhodes, J. E. Kolb, N. F. Perry.
On Sunday Schools—H. P. Watts, T. L. Bowden.
On Ministerial Education—C. C. Lloyd, Thomas Duffell, Joe Phelps.
On Obituaries—J. C. Fonville, T. L. S. Grace, C. C. Lloyd.
On Orphan's Home—F. M. Hauser, J. F. Sims, T. L. S. Grace.

Adjourned till 9 A. M. to-morrow.

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SATURDAY—MORNING SESSION.

10 a. m. Prayer service by Bro. Joseph Kierce.

Called for Correspondence:

Brethren B. A. Jackson, J. R. McLendon and Jacob Bishop of Montgomery Association, and Sister Clara Ansley of Orphan's Home, Evergreen, were welcomed to seats with us.

Treasurer's Report was read, adopted, and turned over to Auditing committee.

Delegates to State Convention—T. L. S. Grace, J. C. Fonville, T. E. Morgan, T. T. Dobbs, J. F. Sims, R. T. Poole, W. C. Avant.

Moved by Bro. Carter, that the churches be requested to

report at next session the amount paid their pastors.

Clerk read report on Home and State Missions. Spoken to by Beville, Avant, Dobbs, and others. Adopted.

Report on Foreign Missions was read. After discussion by Avant, Beville and Sims, adopted.

Bro. Routen read report on Religious Literature. After remarks by Sims, Dobbs, Morgan and others, adopted.

Adjourned to meet at 2 p. m.

Benediction by Bro. B. A. Jackson.

EVENING SESSION.

2 p. m. Prayer by Bro. B. A. Jackson.

A letter from Bradleyton church petitioning admittance into this body was read and said church cordially received.

Bro. J. M. Carter, representing said church, was given the hand of reception by the Moderator.

Report on redistricting this Association read and adopted.

Bro. Sims read report on Orphan's Home. After discussion by sister Ansley, Bro. Beville and others, adopted.

Cash collected for Orphan's Home, $17.15.

PLEDGES FOR ORPHAN'S HOME.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| T. L. S. Grace | $5 00 | R. H. Cross | $5 00 |
| G. S. Morrison | 5 00 | Dr. H. W. Beville | 5 00 |
| J. C. Routen (paid) | 5 00 | Sister Kate Satterwhite | 5 00 |
| Jacob Bishop | 2 50 | J. C. Fonville | 5 00 |
| M. A. Powell | 2 00 | G. H. McQueen | 1 50 |
| J. M. Dickerson | 50 | C. C. Lloyd | 1 00 |
| S. W. Andress | 1 00 | Ladies' Aid Society of Steep Creek | 5 00 |
| T. E. Morgan (paid) | 1 00 | | |

Report of Committee on Religious Exercises was read and adopted.

Bro. Lloyd read report on Ministerial Education. Spoken to by Avant, Beville, Carter and others, and adopted.

Moved that a committee be appointed to prepare a special obituary notice of Eld. J. E. Kolb, late Moderator of this Association, and Deacon John A. Stringer, of Spring Creek.

Bro. Sims read report on Obituaries. Adopted.

Report on Documents was read by Bro. Avant and adopted.

Report on Temperance, read by Bro. Rhodes, was adopted.

PLEDGES FOR ASSOCIATIONAL WORK.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rutledge | $ 5 00 | Siloam | $ 5 00 |
| Damascus | 10 00 | Union | 5 00 |
| Steep Creek | 5 00 | Hickory Grove | 10 00 |
| Mountain Hill | 2 50 | Bradleyton | 5 00 |
| Indian Creek | 5 00 | Antioch | 5 00 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Gravel Hill | 5 00 | Pigeon Creek | 5 00 |
| C. C. Lloyd | 1 00 | Jeff Cook | 2 00 |
| J. M. Dickerson | 1 00 | R. H. Cross | 1 00 |
| J. H. Staggers | 1 00 | T. L. Bowden | 1 00 |

The report of the Executive Board was read by the Clerk and adopted.

Adopted report on Preaching at next session.

Adjourned to meet to-morrow at 9 a. m.

Benediction by Bro. Beville.

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SUNDAY—MORNING SESSION.

9 a. m. Devotional exercises by Bro. Sims.

Minutes read and approved.

Bro. Sims read report on Sunday Schools. After remarks by T. E. Morgan, adopted.

Missionary Sermon at 11 a. m. by Bro. B. A. Jackson.

Resolved, To divide cash collection as follows: One-half to Association, one-fourth to Orphan's Home, and one-fourth to Home and State Board. Adopted.

Resolved, That Bro. Grace receive and forward contribution of Sunday to Orphan's Home.

Sunday cash collection, $15.50.

Moved that the Executive Board be continued as at present, with the addition of Bro. J. M. Carter from Bradleyton, and Bro. J. W. Holloway from Union.

Clerk directed to correct Finance Exhibit.

Clerk to be paid $10.00 for his services.

The Association to meet next year with Bradleyton church, Crenshaw county, on Friday before the second Sunday in October, 1897.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association are due, and hereby tendered, to the brethren and sisters of Hickory Grove, as well as the entire community, for their cordial hospitality.

Adjourned to meet next year with Bradleyton.

The parting hand was given. Hymn, "God be with you." Benediction by the Moderator.

J. C. FONVILLE, MODERATOR.

C. C. LLOYD, Clerk.

COMMITTEES TO REPORT NEXT SESSION.

Home and State Missions—W. C. Avant, J. W. Rodgers, C. H. Morgan.

Foreign Missions—J. F. Sims, R. T. Poole, J. W. Holloway.

Bible Cause and Religious Literature—T. T. Dobbs, J. G. Thomas, S. S. Loe.

Schools and Colleges—C. C. Lloyd, J. E. Helms, J. T. Day.
Temperance—T. E. Morgan, R. H. Cross, J. H. Staggers.
Sunday Schools—W. P. McQueen, J. M. Dickerson, J. M. Carter.
Ministerial Education—I. F. Helms, S. S. Bishop, John A. Rhodes.
Obituaries—J. C. Fonville, T. L. S. Grace, B. W. Addison.
Orphan's Home—Joseph Kierce, T. L. S. Grace, L. D. Barfield.

NOTE—Brethren, avoid delay by bringing these reports prepared.

## REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS.

### REPORT ON ORPHAN'S HOME.

Your committee begs leave to report that since our Orphan's Home was established at Evergreen three years ago, sixty children have been received, and from that number there have been ten boys and four girls let out by adoption and two boys by apprenticeship. The temporal and spiritual interests of the children are well cared for by Bro. Stewart and sister Ansley. We find that eight of the children have been baptized, and all are living under a spiritual influence.

Brethren, these thirty-nine children that are in the Home are our children, and we should look well to their support and comfort. They need more buildings to make them comfortable, and we suggest that this Association make a liberal contribution by cash and pledges in their behalf.

Respectfully submitted,

J. F. SIMS, Chairman.

### REPORT OF EXECUTIVE BOARD.

We beg leave to report that this board met at the last session of the Association and employed Bro. C. C. Lloyd as colporter to work in our bounds at the rate of $20.00 per month for five months.

In May we met at Chapel Hill, received a partial report of the work, and agreed to add ten per cent to his salary, together with such per cent as might be made on sales during the summer months.

Bro. Lloyd reports that owing to severe family affliction for two months past he has fallen short by three weeks of filling out the contract. He has preached 79 sermons, baptized 21 converts, held 93 religious conversations, attended 5 protracted meetings, and married two couples.

No accurate account of miles traveled or families visited has been kept. He hopes much good has been done; how much, eternity alone may reveal. He also hands in an itemized statement of his account current with the Association.

We recommend a continuance of the colportage work in our bounds.

Respectfully submitted,

T. T. DOBBS, Chairman.

NOTE—The amount paid on Bro. Lloyd's salary, $71.73, leaves a balance due him of $28.20; which, with books on hand, $24.67, makes the original stock the same as at the beginning, viz: $52.87; amount due by Association on Bro. Lloyd's salary, $28.20.

### REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

William Carey, the founder of modern missions, was a Baptist.

Through his labors in India the Baptists can be numbered by the thousands, and all the civilization accomplished there by England is due to Carey's missionary efforts. Through the Judsons Burmah received the truth. It was Adoniram Judson that opened the ports of China to the civilized world, and thus a Baptist missionary, by the cross, accomplished what all the gunpowder and steel of nations had failed to do.

Time fails us to speak of Remilson, Yates, Chastain, Wilson, Brooks and Pendleton, who, by the cross, converted kings, stopped the funeral pile, stopped the sacrificing of infants to crocodiles, clothed the naked savages, made Christians of cannibals, converted the Sandwich Islanders, and paved the way for canals through deserts, railroads through jungles, and towns on the plains of heathen lands.

2. Since the organization of the Southern Baptist Convention its foreign board has sent many godly men and women to China, Japan, Persia, Italy, Russia, Brazil and Mexico, and the converts in these countries have grown in strength and the knowledge of our Lord until to-day many of the churches are self-sustaining and have native pastors and missionaries.

3. Their grandest work has been done in China and Mexico. As China is destined to rule the eastern world, the board is straining every nerve to establish Baptist missions, schools and hospitals throughout the empire, and we rejoice to see the churches are thoroughly in sympathy with this advance on the land where Confucianism numbers its devotees by the hundreds of millions.

4. Under the able work of our beloved Dr. Powell, the results in Mexico have gone far beyond our expectation. Missions are springing up all over the republic, and if we at home will only double our efforts for foreign missions, Mexico will be a land of Baptists.

5. As our beloved R. J. Willingham, Corresponding Secretary of the Foreign Board, is now calling for aid that he may push the work in these two countries, we, your committee, urge the preachers of this Association to take up at least one collection in their churches this fall for the foreign board.

Respectfully submitted,

T. E. MORGAN, Chairman.

## REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

After a thorough investigation of the subject we, your committee, beg leave to submit the following for your consideration:

1. Whereas, We find that whiskey has been the cause of more trouble and poverty than all the wars of the world, and realizing that this state of things will continue till the whiskey traffic is controlled by police regulation; and,

Whereas, We find that "blind tigers" are run in all our prohibition counties, and the courts seem powerless to prevent them; and, further, that these "blind tigers" seem to be upheld by some of the politicians of the State; therefore, be it

Resolved, That inasmuch as whiskey continues to be sold in spite of present legislation, it is the sense of your committee to recommend for your consideration the adoption of the South Carolina dispensary law as the only solution of the whiskey question, and with this end in view to petition the next legislature to enact a law similar to said South Carolina dispensary law.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN A. RHODES, Chairman.

REPORT ON DOCUMENTS AND STATE OF RELIGION.

On examination we find the state of religion in the churches very good. Almost all the churches in the Association have been blest with revivals, and many have had unusually large ingatherings. One hundred and fifty-nine have been baptized in the name of Jesus. Our souls are thrilled with joy, our hearts made glad, and "sorrow and sighing and mourning flee away." But let us not in this rejoice too much. Remember our Lord has said, "Rejoice that your names are written in heaven," which is the evidence of true Christianity as the children of the kingdom.

We find too much indifference as to Sunday Schools in many of the churches. Respectfully submitted,

W. C. AVANT, Chairman.

REPORT ON RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

Your committee beg leave to say that first of all the Bible should be earnestly and persistently read by all who profess the name of Christ. It is the word of God that is truth without any mixture of error, and is able to make us wise unto salvation. It is God's will written, witnessed and sealed by the precious blood of Christ.

We further recommend that we take and read our denominational papers and get the best literature for our children in Sunday School.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN C. ROUTEN, Chairman.

## IN MEMORY OF ELD. JAMES E. KOLB.

With bowed head and sorrowful hearts we record this feeble tribute of respect to the memory of our dear departed brother and co-worker, late Moderator of our Association, whom it has pleased the Father to remove from earthly labor to heavenly rest. A good man is gone, and when we say good, we say what every one who knew him must say. Like his beloved Master, he went about doing good. Realizing in its fullest sense that he was a sinner saved by God's grace, and like Paul, "Conferring not with flesh and blood," he took up his cross, and marching under the blood-stained banner of King Emanuel, he told on every hand the "glad tidings of good news," and pointed dying men to the "Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world." Bro. Kolb was no ordinary man. Gentle, timid, and modest as a woman, yet animated by his lofty spiritual conceptions, and moved by his earnest convictions, he was as fearless and bold as a lion in the defense of the truth as it is in Christ Jesus. But he is gone. Yes, his armor, bright with service, is laid aside, and

"He has anchored in the blessed port
Forever from the storm."

Therefore, be it Resolved, 1. That we bow in humble submission to the will of him who doeth all things well.

Resolved, 2. That we tender his bereaved family and loved ones our heartfelt sympathies, praying upon them God's choicest blessings.

Respectfully,

C. C. LLOYD.

REPORT ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

As an Association we find that we are in the rear as to Ministerial

Education. In the days of Paul (Acts 18:20) there was an educational board. Since then there have been many changes. False religion and divisions have followed the churches, and to-day we need education. We need free schools to educate the people, and then we will have an educated ministry. We commend all our colleges and seminaries for patronage, and do the best we can under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

W. C. AVANT, Chairman.

## REPORT ON OBITUARIES.

Since our last session our hearts are made sad to record the fact that Eld. J. E. Kolb and sister Bush, of Siloam; Deacon John A. Stringer and sister J. T. Wright, of Spring Creek; sister Williams, of Steep Creek; sister Mustin, of New Ebenezer, and sister Peterson, of Union, have gone to "that rest that remaineth to the people of God."

We recommend that the Clerk be requested to write a special obituary in memory of Eld. J. E. Kolb and Deacon John A. Stringer for publication in the minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

J. F. SIMS, Chairman.

## REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

We are made sad to report that only six Sunday-schools are reported by the churches. We feel that the neglect of the Sunday-school by the church of Christ is a step backward, or to say the least, is to partially close the door against the possibilities of bringing up our children in the way they should go. We suggest that the Association appoint a suitable person in each district to visit each church and try to organize a Sunday-school, and the churches be careful to report the same at the next session of the Association.

Respectfully submitted,

T. L. BOWDEN, Chairman.

## REPORT ON HOME AND STATE MISSIONS.

Our Home Board, with Dr. I. T. Tichenor as Corresponding Secretary, Atlanta, Ga., has done more in the last year than ever before in its history. In New Mexico and in Southeastern Texas many have been converted from Romanism to the truth. The mountainous parts of the Southern States are receiving the gospel through this board, and we point with pride to its grand work of pushing forward the truth in Cuba, and the honor reflected upon Baptists by the fearless way the Home Board stood up for our missionary, A. J. Diaz.

The State Board, with Dr. W. C. Bledsoe as Corresponding Secretary, Montgomery, Ala., is doing a great work under the auspices of our State Convention. Six general missionaries are at work visiting the destitute fields, indoctrinating weak churches, organizing Sunday-schools, etc. Under these godly and fearless men many souls have been brought to Christ, while Sunday-school and church work has been greatly forwarded. In view of this great uplifting of the churches, we recommend that this Association heartily co-operate with its means and talents in the work of our State Board.

Respectfully submitted,

T. T. DOBBS, Chairman.

## IN MEMORY OF DEACON JOHN A. STRINGER.

Again we are called upon to record the death of a beloved brother in Zion. Bro. Stringer is gone! How we all loved him! How we all miss him!

The writer of this feeble tribute of respect knew him well and long. For nearly forty years he has been acquainted with "Uncle John," and often in the days that are past and gone has he listened with profit to words of sound wisdom and good advice. Bro. Stringer was what some in these days are pleased to call an "old land-marker." Well, that's all right. We like these old land-markers. They are very apt to be guided as he was by a saving faith in Christ as the only hope of lost men and women. Yes, thank God for such Christians, for such Baptists as John A. Stringer. If the world had more such it would be a better world. But he is gone. Full of years, full of faith, full of Christian honors, God has taken him from earthly labor to heavenly rest.

And while we bow in sorrow to God's divine will, we sing in joyful strains—

"Up to the city where cometh no night,
God's children are gathering home."

C. C. Lloyd.

### REPORT ON NOMINATIONS.

Your Committee on Nominations beg leave to make the following report:

To Preach the Introductory Sermon—Eld. T. T. Dobbs; alternate, Eld. W. H. Cheatham.

To Preach the Missionary Sermon—Eld. W. C. Avant; alternate, Eld J. F. Sims.

J. C. Routen, Chairman.

### TREASURER'S REPORT.

W. P. McQueen, Treasurer,
In account with Alabama Baptist Association:

Oct. 11, 1896. Dr.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| To Minute fund | $ 25 | 00 | |
| Colportage fund | 51 | 89 | |
| Orphans's Home collection | 10 | 05 | |
| For delegate to S. B. C | 4 | 50 | |
| State, Home and Foreign Missions | 24 | 96 | |
| Church building fund | 25 | 00 | |
| For Kirkville church, from J. M. Dickerson | 1 | 00 | $142 37 |

Cr.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| By Voucher 1, S. O. Y. Ray | $ 24 | 93 | |
| 2, C. C. Lloyd | 25 | 00 | |
| 3 and 4, C. C. Lloyd | 50 | 82 | |
| 5, J. M. S. & J. E. H | 25 | 00 | |
| 6, C. C. Lloyd | 4 | 50 | |
| 7, J. W. Stewart | 10 | 05 | |
| 8, Express | | 08 | |
| Balance on hand | 1 | 99 | $142 37 |

LIST OF ORDAINED MINISTERS IN THE ALABAMA ASSOCIATION.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| W. H. Cheatham | Greenville, | Ala. |
| C. C. Lloyd | " | " |
| W. C. Avant | Rutledge, | " |
| J. F. Sims | " | " |
| T. T. Dobbs | Cook's Stand, | " |
| B. F. Cooper | Johnson, | " |
| T. E. Morgan | Honoraville, | " |
| J. G. Thomas | " | " |
| J. T. Davidson | " | " |
| R. T. Poole | Mt. Carmel, | " |

LICENTIATES.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| M. Pruitt | Fort Deposit, | Ala |
| Geo. R. Vickery | Honoraville, | " |
| Thomas Duffell | Highland Home, | " |

EXECUTIVE BOARD.

| | |
|---|---|
| Nelson Rushton, | T. L. S. Grace, |
| W. O. Killough, | J. H. Killough, |
| J. H. Barrett, | F. M. Rodgers, |
| John E. Roper, | H. P. Watts, |
| J. H. Staggers, | J. H. Harrison, |
| J. Schofield, | John A. Rhodes, |
| R. H. Cross, | S. T. Kelley, |
| John W. Holloway, | J. M. Carter, |
| Jeff Cook, | J. H. Sexton, |
| J. E. Helms, | T. T. Dobbs, Chairman. |

Five to make a quorum.

FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL WORK.

| | |
|---|---|
| First District | Joseph Kierce |
| Second District | C. H. Morgan |
| Third District | J. M. Carter |
| Fourth District | J. M. Dickerson |

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF ALABAMA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, FOR YEAR 1896.

| CHURCHES. | Home Missions. (Cash.) | Foreign Missions: (Cash.) | Associational Missions. | Orphan's Home. | | Minutes. | Home Expenses: Repairs, Fuel, the Poor, Etc. | Education— (Cash.) | Value of Property |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Cash. | Pledge. | | | | |
| New Ebenezer | $ | $ | $ | $ | $ | $ 1 50 | $ | $ | $ 250 00 |
| Mountain Hill | | | 5 00 | | | 1 00 | | | 150 00 |
| Union | 1 00 | 1 00 | 10 00 | | | 1 50 | | 1 00 | 200 00 |
| Pigeon Creek | | | 2 50 | | | 1 50 | | | 250 00 |
| Bradleyton | | | | | | 1 40 | | | 300 00 |
| Rutledge | | | | | | 1 25 | | | 450 00 |
| Damascus | | | 5 00 | | | 2 50 | | | 350 00 |
| Siloam | | | 5 00 | | | 2 00 | | | 350 00 |
| Steep Creek | 10 50 | 10 50 | 5 00 | | | 2 10 | 148 00 | | 800 00 |
| Indian Creek | | | 6 30 | | | 2 45 | | | 500 00 |
| Antioch | | | 5 00 | | | 1 50 | | | 350 00 |
| Gravel Hill | | | | | | 1 50 | | | 200 00 |
| Hickory Grove | | | 20 00 | | | 2 00 | | | 400 00 |
| Panola church | | | | | | 1 00 | | | 100 00 |
| Chapel Hill | | | 4 00 | | | 1 50 | | | 250 00 |
| Spring Creek | | | 5 00 | | | 1 00 | | | 300 00 |
| Public collection | | 10 00 | | 17 15 | 43 50 | | | | |
| Total | $11 50 | $21 50 | $72 80 | $17 15 | $43 50 | $25 70 | $ 148 00 | $ 1 00 | $ 5,200 00 |

A correct account of all vouchers, as well as cash, passing through the churches from one session to another should be kept and reported fully in the letters. And remember, the money and vouchers must first be turned over to the Finance Committee, thus avoiding much confusion.

Total for all purposes, $5,393.15.

Received of C. C. Lloyd $16.00 for printing Minutes of the Alabama Baptist Association for the year 1896.—ALABAMA BAPTIST.

# STATISTICS OF ALABAMA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION—1896.

| CHURCHES. | COUNTIES. | PASTORS. | CLERKS. | CLERK'S P. O. | Membership last Reported. | Increase by | | | | Decrease by | | | | Present Membership. | Sunday School Off'rs & Teach'rs | Sunday School Pupils. | Preaching Sabbaths. | Reports Prayer Meeting | Reports Revival. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | Baptism. | Letter. | Voucher. | Restoration. | Letter. | Exclusion. | Erasure. | Death. | | | | | | |
| Antioch | Butler | C. C. Lloyd | J. T. Day | Searcy | 57 | 3 | 7 | | | 4 | | 1 | | 62 | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Chapel Hill | Crenshaw | B. F. Cooper | W. H. Rodgers | Cook's Stand | 61 | 6 | 1 | | 1 | 2 | | | | 67 | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Damascus | Butler | W. C. Avant | S. F. Andress | Earlton | 66 | 41 | 3 | | 3 | | | | 1 | 112 | | | 3 | | 2 |
| Ellis | Lowndes | T. E. Morgan | Frank May | Ft. Deposit | 25 | | | | | | | | | 25 | | | 4 | | |
| Good Hope | " | W. H. Cheatham | J. C. Abbott | Greenville | 33 | | | | | | | | | 33 | | | 1 | | |
| Gravel Hill | Butler | C. C. Lloyd | W. F. Herndon | Greenville | 35 | 15 | | | | | | | | 50 | | | 4 | | 1 |
| Hickory Grove | Montgomery | T. E. Morgan | D. S. Hurst | Davenport | 50 | | 1 | | | 1 | | 2 | | 51 | | | 3 | | 1 |
| Indian Creek | Butler | T. T. Dobbs | Daniel Harrison | Searcy | 110 | 2 | 2 | | | 5 | 4 | | | 105 | | | 4 | | 1 |
| Mountain Hill | Crenshaw | J. G. Thomas | R. L. Hall | Surles | 47 | 8 | 3 | | | 3 | | | | 66 | | | 4 | | 1 |
| New Ebenezer | " | J. T. Davidson | Jeff Cook | Highland Home | 32 | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | 25 | | | 2 | | 1 |
| Panola | " | J. G. Thomas | J. H. Sexton | Honoraville | 34 | 1 | | | | 1 | 2 | | | 21 | | | 3 | | 1 |
| Pigeon Creek | Butler | T. T. Dobbs | J. G. Wells | Honoraville | 20 | 9 | 16 | | | 3 | | | | 42 | 6 | 34 | 1 | | 1 |
| Rutledge | Crenshaw | W. B. Carter | Wm. Swanner | Rutledge | 60 | | 4 | | | 5 | | | 1 | 58 | 7 | 48 | 3 | | 1 |
| Siloam | " | B. F. Cooper | J. B. Foster | Rutledge | 69 | 22 | 7 | | | 1 | | | | 117 | 5 | 39 | 2 | Regular | 1 |
| Spring Creek | Butler | W. H. Cheatham | T. L. Bowden | Daisy | 73 | | 3 | | | | | | 2 | 76 | 5 | 44 | 2 | " | 1 |
| Steep Creek | Lowndes | S. J. Catts | M. A. Powell | Hayneville | 84 | 32 | 3 | 3 | | 1 | | | 1 | 124 | 6 | 20 | 1 | " | 1 |
| Union | Crenshaw | W. C. Avant | J. W. Holloway | Honoraville | 91 | 35 | | | | | | | 1 | 56 | | | 4 | | 1 |
| Bradleyton | " | T. E. Morgan | Wm. Warrick | Bradleyton | 25 | 11 | 7 | 1 | | | | | | 44 | | | 2 | Regular | 1 |
| Total | | | | | 922 | 85 | 58 | 4 | 4 | 26 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 1120 | 29 | 180 | | | |

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS AND THEIR POSTOFFICES.—Pigeon Creek church—J. G. Wells, Honoraville. Steep Creek church—J. M. Dickinson, Corrie. Siloam church—L. H. Helmes, Rutledge. Spring Creek church—J. M. Arrington, Daisy. Rutledge church—William Bailey, Rutledge.

Names of churches received from other Associations—Bradleyton church admitted into Alabama Association from the Montgomery Association.

## DECLARATION OF FAITH OF ALABAMA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE 1. OF THE SCRIPTURES--We believe the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction [a]; that it has God for its author [b], salvation for its end [c], and truth without any mixture of error for its matter [d]; that it reveals principles by which God will judge us [e]; and of Christian union [f]; and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried [g].

(a) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works - 2 Tim. 3:16, 17. (b) For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost—2 Peter 1:21. (c) These things are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name. John 20:31. (d) For the word of the Lord is right; and all his works are done in truth—Psalms 33:4. (e) God shall judge the secrets of men, according to my gospel—Rom. 2:10. And the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works—Rev. 22:12. (f) Though we, or an angel from heaven, preached any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed—Gal. 1:9. (g) If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed—Gal. 1:10.

ART. 2. OF THE TRUE GOD—That there is one, and only one, true and living God (a) whose name is Jehovah (b), the Maker and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and earth (c), inexpressibly glorious in holiness; worthy of all confidence and love (d), revealed under the personal and relative distinctions of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection (e), and executing distinct and harmonious offices in the great work of redemption (f)

(a) God is one—Gal. 3:20. (b) That men may know that thou, whose name is Jehovah, art the most high over all the earth—Psalms 83:18. (c) For by him were all things created, that are in Heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible—Col. 1:16. (d) Who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders—Ex. 15:11 (e) For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one—1 John 5:7. For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily— Col. 2:9. Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God,—Phil. 2.6. (f) God sent his Son into the world, that the world through him might be saved—John 3:17. Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures—1 Cor. 15:3. And was raised again for our justification—Rom. 4:25. He ever liveth to make intercession for them.—Heb. 7:25. It is the Spirit that quickeneth— John 6:63.

ART. 3. OF THE FALL OF MAN.—That man was created in a state of holiness, under the law of his Maker (a), but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state, in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but choice, (b) being wholly given to the gratification of the world, of Satan, and of their own sinful passions (c), and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defence and excuse (d).

(a) So God created man in his own image—Gen. 1:27. God made man upright—Ec. 7:29. (b) In Adam all die—1 Cor. 15:22. There is none righteous, no, not one—Rom. 3:10. Ye are of your father the

devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do--John 8:44. (c) He that believeth not is condemned already; because he hath not believed on the name of the only begotten Son of God--John 3:18. Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction—2 Thes. 1:8. (d) And he was speechless---Matt. 22:12. For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.—Rom. 1:30.

ART. 4 OF THE WAY OF SALVATION.—That the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace (a), through the mediatorial office of the Son of God (b), who took on him our nature yet without sin [c]; honored the law by his personal obedience, and made atonement for our sins by his death [d]; being risen from the dead he is now enthroned in Heaven [e]; and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathy with divine perfection, is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all sufficient Saviour [f].

[a] For by grace ye are saved, through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God—Eph. 2:8. [b] For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus—1 Tim. 2:5. [c] Forasmuch as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also took part of the same—Heb. 2:14. And in him is no sin---1 John 3:5. [d] The Lord is well pleased for his righteousness sake; he will magnify the law and make it honorable---Isa. 42:21. We were reconciled to God by the death of His Son---Rom. 5:10. [e] But we see Jesus----crowned with glory and honor----Heb. 2:9. [f] For we have a High Priest that can be touched with the feelings of our infirmities---Heb. 4;15 For in him dwelleth the fullness of the Godhead---Col. 2:9.

ART. 5. OF JUSTIFICATION.----That the gospel blessing, which Christ of his fullness bestows on such as believe in him in justification, consists in the pardon of sin and promise of eternal life, on principles of righteousness [b]; that it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through his own redemption and righteousness [c], that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity [d].

[a] Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ---Rom. 5:1. [b] Whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins---Acts 10:30. He that believeth on the Son hath eternal life--John 3:30. Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation, through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God—Rom. 3:25. [c] Not by works of righteousness, which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost—Titus 3:3. [d] He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things. - Rom. 8.32

ART. 6. OF THE FREENESS OF SALVATION—That the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel [a], that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial and obedient faith [b], and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, except his own voluntary refusal to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ [c], which refusal will subject him to an aggravated condemnation [d].

[a] Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God and there is none else—Isa. 45-22. Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.—Rev. 22:17. [b] Now he commandeth

all men everywhere to repent—Acts 17:30. [c] Ye will not come unto me that ye might have life—John 5:40. [d] It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for thee. Mat. 11:24.

ART. 7. OF GRACE IN REGENERATION.—That in order to be saved, we must be regenerated or born again [a]; that the regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind, and is effected in a manner above our comprehension or calculation, by the power of the Holy Spirit, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel [b]; and that its proper evidence is found in the holy fruit we bring forth to the glory of God [c].

[a] Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.—John 3:3. [b] And be renewed in the spirit of your mind. And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness—Eph. 4, 23, 24. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh and whither it goeth; so is every one that is born of the spirit.—John 3:8. Every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.—1 John 4:7. If a man love me, he will keep my words.—John 14:23. [c] For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.—Eph. 2:10. We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not.—1 John 5:18.

ART. 8. OF GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE.—That election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which he regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting and promotes humility, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy; that it is ascertained by its effect in all who believe the gospel; is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves, demands and deserves our utmost diligence.

[a] God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the spirit, and belief of the truth.—2 Thes. 2:13. [b] Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sake that they may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.—2 Tim. 2:10. [c] According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.—Eph. 1:4. [d] And they that are with him are called and chosen, and faithful.—Rev. 17:14. [e] Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth?—Rom. 8:33-34. [f] Wherefore the rather, brethren, give all diligence to make your calling and election sure.—2 Peter 1:10.

ART. 9. OF THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS.—That such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special providence watches over their welfare; and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

[a] Whoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him; and he cannot sin because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil—1 John 2:9, 10. [b] They went out from us, but they were not of us—1 John 2:19. [c] God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able; but will, with the temptation, also make

a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.—1 Cor. 10:13. Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time.—1 Peter 1:5.

Art. 10. Harmony of the Law and Gospel.—That the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government: that it is holy, just and good; and that the inability, which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen man, to fulfill its precepts arises entirely from their love of sin, to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the gospel and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

[a] Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.—Matt. 5:18. [b] Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.—Rom. 6:12. [c] That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit.—Rom. 8:4. Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid; yea, we establish the law.—Rom. 3:31.

Art. 11. Of a Gospel Church.—That a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by his laws, and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by his word; that its only proper officers are bishops, or pastors, and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

[a] Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, to all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints.—Rom. 1:7. Therefore we are buried with him by baptism unto death.—Rom. 6:4. Paul, an apostle to the churches of Galatia.—Gal. 1:1-2. For ye are the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Jesus Christ, have put on Christ.—Gal. 3:26-27. [b] Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same spirit. And there are differences of administration, but the same Lord.—1 Cor. 3:4-5. [c] A bishop then must be blameless.—1 Tim. 3:1-7. Likewise must the deacons be grave.—1 Tim. 3:8, 9, 10; see also Titus 1:7, 8, 9. Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in word and doctrine; and the laborer is worthy of his reward. Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.—Tim. 5:17, 18, 19.

Art. 12. Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.—That Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit; [a] to show forth, in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in a crucified and risen Savior, with its purifying power; [b] that it is a prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation, and to the Lord's Supper, [c], in which the members of the church, by the use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, preceded always by solemn self-examination, [d].

[a] See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said: "If thou believest with all thy heart, thou mayest;" and he said: I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And they went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.—Acts 8:36, 37, 38. Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.—Matt. 28:19. [b] Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him, through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.—Col. 2:12. [c] Except a man be

born of water, and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.—John 3:5. Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples.—Matt. 26:26. And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread.—Acts 20:7. For as oft as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come.—1 Cor. 11:26. [d] But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup.—Verse 28.

ART. 13. OF THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH.—That the first day of the week is the Lord's day, or Christian Sabbath, [a]; and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes by abstaining from all secular labor and recreations, [b]; by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public, [c], and by preparation for that rest which remaineth for the people of God, [d].

[a] I was in the spirit on the Lord's day.—Rev. 1:10. [b] Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.—Ex. 20:8. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested on the seventh day; wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.--Verse 11. [c] Upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow.--Acts 12:7. [d] There remaineth, therefore, a rest to the people of God.--Heb. 4:9. Let us labor, therefore, to enter into that rest.--Verse 11.

ART. 14. OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT.--That civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society [a]; and that magistrates are to be prayed for [b]; conscientiously honored and obeyed [c]; except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ [d] who is the only Lord of the conscience, and prince of the kings of the earth (e).

(a) For there is no power but of God; the powers that be are ordained of God.--Rom. 13:1. For he is the minister of God to thee for good.--Verse 4. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. --Verse 3. (b) I exhort, therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving thanks, be made for all men; for kings and for all that are in authority.--1 Tim. 2:1, 2. (c) Wherefore ye must needs be subject not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.--Rom. 13.5. (d) We ought to obey God rather than men.--Acts 5:29. [e] Christ is the blessed and only potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of Lords.--1 Tim. 6:15.

ART. 15. OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED.—That there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked [a]; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the spirit of God, are truly righteous in his esteem [b]; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in his sight wicked, and under the curse [c]; and this distinction holds among men both in life and after death [d].

[a] He that is not with me is against me.—Luke 11:23. Now, if any man have not the spirit of Christ, he is none of his.—Rom. 8:9. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil; whoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.—1 John 3:10. [b] To declare, I say, at this time, his righteousness; that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.—Rom. 3:26. But ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the spirit of our God--1 Cor. 6:11. [c] Except ye repent, ye shall likewise perish—Luke 13:3. He that believeth not is condemned already.—John 3:18. (d) He that is unjust, let him be unjust still; and he that

is filthy, let him be filthy still; and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still; and he that is holy, let him be holy still.—Rev. 22:11.

ART. 16. OF THE WORLD TO COME.—That the end of this world is approaching [a]; that at the last day Christ will descend from heaven and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution [b]; that a solemn separation will then take place [c]; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment; and the righteous to endless joy [d]; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of man in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness [e].

[a] But the end of all things is at hand; be ye, therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.—1 Peter 4:7. [b] For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first.—1 Thes. 4:16. All that are in their graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.---John 5:28, 29. [c] And before him shall be gathered together all nations; and he shall separate them one from another as a shepherd divideth the sheep from the goats.--Matt. 25:32. [d] And these shall go away into everlasting punishment; but the righteous into life eternal.—Matt. 25:32. [e] And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them, and they were judged every man according to his works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death—Rev. 20:13, 14. Shall not the judge of all the earth do right?– Gen. 18:25.